



Appropriations Committee Public Hearing, 2.22.2013 - Testimony by: Galit Sharma - In Support of HB 6359

and resources on wondering what others are doing and if we are reinventing the wheel with every new idea, we will be able to focus our attention on developing our programs and moving forward. The Office of Early Childhood can help facilitate this change by providing one 'home' to these programs and adopting a team approach. We need a connected network of early childhood services for children and parents that builds on children's natural development from infancy, through toddlerhood and preschool, and into the child's school experience.

As a director of a Nurturing Families program in New Haven, I see the effects of early parenting education and support every day. The impact of this early home visitation program on parents that are at high risk for child abuse and/or neglect is clear, not only by perception and wishful thinking, but by proven research results that show a decrease in rigid parenting attitudes, a reduction in family isolation and an improvement in parental understanding of secure attachment and age appropriate expectations. With the creation of an Office of Early Childhood I envision a continuum of such support that begins with home visitation when, or before, the baby is born, follows the family to a high quality toddler or preschool program and helps transition the family to school.

Thank you again for your vision and commitment. I look forward to an integrated early childhood system that will benefit Connecticut's children and their families.

Thank you for your time.

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